

A SECOND (13)
LETTER
TO

Sir F— B—;

By Birth a Swede, but Naturaliz'd, and a M—r of the present P——t: Concerning the
MINEHEAD Doctrine.

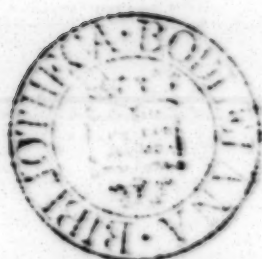
DEMONSTRATING

The Blessings of Arbitrary Power,
Establish'd by the Parliament of Sweden in 1680, from the History of that Kingdom; and from an Address of the States of Livonia to the King of Sweden the 30th of May 1692. Exhibited here at Large; and Expressing the Unspeakable Advantage of such a Happy Constitution.

*Neque tamen flebimus, si quod Senatus-Consultum;
Adulatione Novum, aut patientia postremum fuit.*
Tacit. Annal. Lib. 14.

L O N D O N;

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A SECOND
LETTER
TO

Sir J — B — ,

SIR,

SINCE no Body can doubt that a Gentlemanⁿ so well Accomplish'd as your self, must very well understand the History of his Country, and that so Remarkable a Patriot must Love to hear every thing that Redounds to its Glory: I take it for Granted, that I cant oblige you more than to desire the Honour of your Company, and the benefit of your Assistance in looking over the History of *Sweden* with me; to compare the little figure it made, while the *Swedes* at the Head of an Antimonarchical Confederacy, asserted Republican and Schismatical Principles among themselves, and were for Imposing them upon the rest of *Europe*; with the Great Figure they have made since they Dutifully set up the Unlimited and Absolute Power of Kings, with the Divine Indefeasible Hereditary Right of Succession; and joyn'd in Alliance with those who would make all the World as Happy in such a Government, as themselves.

I dont care to go farther back then that Period, because I know you are a Gentleman of Business, and that your time is too precious to turn over with me. Your famous Historian *Olaus Rudbeck*, who satisfactori-

ly Demonstrates, that *Sweden* is the Oldest Kingdom of *Europe*, and that all the other Nations in this part of the World are Colonies from it. Besides, it might be of ill Consequence to insist upon this, 'twould raise Jealousies in the *Grand Seigneur* and the *French King*, that your natural Sovereign might lay a Juster Claim to the Universal Monarchy than either of themselves: For your truly Great Historian *Joannes Magnus* has so unanswerably prov'd your Monarchs Descent from *Magog*, the Grandson of *Noah* by his Son *Japhet*; that I very much doubt whether either of the Mighty Princes abovementioned have any Records in their Archives that are able to disprove it.

I shall likewise pass over the extraordinary Skill your Nation has acquir'd by their long Study of Astrology, which *Puffendorf* tells us in his History, induc'd your Ancestors to Travel so far North, and to People your Country before any other place on this side the *Helle-spont* was Inhabited, because of their curiosity to know the Reasons of the Obliquity of the Course of the Sun, of the Length of the Days in Summer, and of the Nights in Winter: I should have blam'd the Modesty of that Great Author for telling us, that these things are only Conjectures; did not the disaster which befell your Nation at *Pultowa*, seem to make it very probable that other People understand the Language of the Stars, the Aspects of the Planets, and the Effects of favourable and unfavourable Conjunctions, as well as they.

I am mightily pleas'd with the endeavours of the Learned *Grotius*, who out of complaisance to your *Q. Christina*, gives us the History of your Absolute Kings 3000 Years before Christ. What better Argument can one desire to prove that Government only to be of Divine Institution; but I draw a Vail over the Apostacy of your Ancestors into a Republick in the 100th Year of *Rome*, and their long continuance in that Sin of Rebellion, which was worse than Witchcraft, for 250 Years, till the Monarchy

chy was Restor'd by *Erick II.* surnamed the *Wise*. No Body can after this, blame *Q. Christina* for entertaining an utter Abhorrence against *Rome* Heathen, and for chusing to retire to *Rome* Christian, which compleated the Ruin of the Old *Pagan* Common-Wealth, and by the Hand of our Saviours Vicar restor'd Kings to an Unlimited Power, and Indefeasible Right of Hereditary Succession, on Condition of paying the Homage and Tribute they owe to the Successor of *St. Peter*; and receiving their Investiture under the Seal of the Fisher.

Your Country is extremely oblig'd Sir, to the Author of the History of the Revolutions of *Sweden*, who gives such a Character of your Kings that Reign'd so many Years before Christ, that we cant doubt but they were the Ordinance of God, whom no Body was to Resist on pain of Damnation. They were equal at least, if not Superiour in Character to *Nero*; for they were Giants, Magicians, or Robbers (says that Author) who thought it unworthy their Dignity to Marry any Princess, except they had first Ravish'd her; and would not pretend to Courage till they had Assassinated their Enemies in their own Houses; such Actions Intitled them to the Name of Heroes during Life, and to be Worship'd as Gods after their Death.

In those Days your Church was as Happy, nay much Happier, because much Higher than your State: Her Founder was *Wodin*, chas'd out of *Asia* by that Errant Whig and Republican *Pompey* the Great, in aversion to whom, *Wodin* Damn'd all Whiggs for Atheists, and confirm'd the Unlimited Power of your Princes, with an Indefeasible Hereditary Right. For the better support of that Noble Constitution, he Built a topping High Church at *Upsal*, which he cover'd over with Gold to make it Glorious, and fasten'd her Pinnacles with a Golden Chain, that the Low Church Men might not be able to pull them down. And that you should be sure to be Orthodox, he Erected a Lofty Idol in that Temple, whose Taste was rais'd so high, that he delighted

in nothing but Royal Sacrifices, and thus your King *Danialder* was served up to him as a Relishing Dish, by the Genuine Sons of the Church, and your Monarch *Ring*, scorning that the High Church Deity should be served by any thing less than a Royal Priest, as well as by Princely Victims, Sacrificed 9 of his own Sons to him. But the Orthodox Clergy taking it ill to be robb'd of the Priesthood which was theirs by an uninterrupted Succession, they resum'd the Office again, and Sacrificed your Monarch *Olaus*, who has ever since pass'd for a Saint and a Martyr, and now he is honour'd by having *Dr. Sacheverell* to be one of his Chaplains in *St. Olave's Church* Consecrated to his Memory.

But to let you see that you are more oblig'd to others of our Countrymen, than to *Mr. B—————n*, your own History's say, we sent you a Race of Priests, who gave your Pagan High-Church a Christian Name; and to get her confirm'd in her Privildges, brought you willingly to pay an Annual Tribute to the Pope, called *Rome/lot*. Thus your Church and State continued in a flourishing Condition, till the Whig and Schismatick *Gustavus Erickson* introduced the Heresie of *Luther*, and rebelliously carried on a Revolution against your Inflexible and Hereditary Kings of the *Danish* Line, who to prove that they were God's true Vice Gerents, beheaded 94 of your Senate and Common-Council at *Stockholm*, and hang'd all their Servants with your Regent among the rest, upon a High Church Accusation, that they design'd to blow up the King in his Palace. This was but part of the Noble Achievements of your mild *K. Christian*, whom the Republicans and Schismatics call'd by the Odious Name of the *Nero* of the *North*; but your High Church Clergy extolled him as God's true Lievetenant, his Clemency, being so very great, that he contented himself with cutting the Throats of so small a Number of your Countrymen, as 600 for this Notorious Whig Plot, which was prov'd

prov'd as demonstrably as our Screw Plot of *St. Paul's*, without the Temptation of a 50 *l.* Reward.

Then, surely no Man will say, but your Clergy had Reason to excommunicate *Gustavus Erickson*, for rescuing his Count from the mild Government of your indefeasible Prince, and that his Memory deserves to be Libell'd as an Usurper and a Traitor, and your Parliament of 1544, can be accounted no other than a Rebellious Convention for settling your Crown on his Family, and giving him the Title of the Glorious Instrument of their deliverance from *Popish* Slavery, and Arbitrary Power, since he was no better than a Sacrilegious Trant, and robb'd your *Dalecarlian* Steeples of their Supernumerary Bells.

Your High Church however recover'd her Breath under the Conduct of his Successor *K. John*, who having Assembled a Convocation of the High Flying Clergy brought them to a Reconciliation with *Rome*, and got it made Treason to a High Church Parliament to write or speak against it: But as fair Weather is not always lasting, our High Church was quite overclouded, after his Death, when his Brother *D. Charles* took the Regency upon him, restored the Protestant Religion, abolish'd the new model'd Popery, and rebelliously enter'd into an Association with the States to defend their Religion and Liberty against the true *Popish* Heir *Sigismund*, who was Son to *K. John*.

You know very well Sir, That our brave Tories found means to weather this Storm, by prevailing with *K. Sigismund* to promise he wou'd Ratify all the States had done, in Favour of the Protestant Religion and Liberty, and by this means he came to his Fathers Crown. But according to the laudable High Church Maxim; that Oaths and Promises are not to be kept to Hereticks and Schismatics, he overturned all, and endeavoured to establish the true Church and Monarchy by Military Force, and the Assistance of Foreign *Popish* Troops, which brought on a new treasonable Revolution,

lution, by which *D. Charles* had the Succession settled on himself and his Family, and the Popish Line was totally excluded.

Yet notwithstanding this settlement your brave honest Tories in Conjunction with their Popish Neighbours adher'd to *Sigismund's* Hereditary Right, and distressed your Revolution King to such a Degree, that he broke his Heart, and left his Party in a deplorable Condition.

But unhappily for your High Church, his Son *Gustavus Adolphus* who succeeded his Father, when but 18 Years of Age, retrieved the Cause of the Whiggs, did totally suppress your Tories, and out of Hatred to them, declared War against all of their Principles, and those who supported them every where else.

As Whiggs are never wanting in specious Pretences, this young Usurper pick'd a Quarrel with the Emperor, who had promis'd to assist *Sigismund*, and pretending that his Imperial Majesty ought not to exercise an Arbitrary Power over his *German Whiggs* and Schismatics; nor to break in upon the Liberties granted to the Empire, by the Golden Bull, he marched into *Germany* to the Support of the High *Dutch Whiggs*, and that he might be the more capable of giving them suitable Assistance; he carried with him no less than three *Scotch Presbyterian* Generals, one Velt-Marshal, one Lieutenant General, two Major Generals, 23 Collonels, (20 of whom came afterwards to be Major Generals) 55 Lieutenant Collonels, 14 Majors, with an unknown Number of Captains and Subalterns, besides 7 Regiments of those cursed Kink Whiggs, of whom he was so fond, that he trusted them with the Guard of his Person; and had them ever about him in all his Rebellious Exploits.

This *Swedish* Usurper became so very Successful that he beat the *German* Tories and Papists, wherever he met them, set the Whiggs and Schismatics of the Empire on Tip-toe, and among many other Sacrilegious
Impi-

Impieties which shew'd him to be an Atheist or a Deist, he committed one so remarkable, that 'tis not to be parallel'd in Story ; it may perhaps offend your Orthodox Ears, and put you in a Fret, yet you know how to ease your self according to our Laudable Custome, by Cursing his Memory as an Atheistical Whigg ; and therefore I'll take leave to tell it you.

Gustavus having taken a *German Town*, where there was a stately and rich Cathedral, he forbade his Souldiers to plunder it, on Pain of Death. His orders being punctually obey'd, he went to see it himself, and among other Pieces of Plate of extraordinary Value, he found a large Statue of our Saviour, and those of his 12 Apostles, all in Silver. The Clergy humbly begg'd of him, that he wou'd not meddle with those Consecrated things, to which he replyed, that he wou'd leave them our Saviours Statue, provided they wou'd give it no Divine Adoration, but for the 12 Apostles, he wou'd send them on their proper Errand to preach the Gospel to the Nations of the Earth ; A saying so Blasphemous, that none but the Kirk Whiggs about him cou'd inspire him with the Thought !

I come now to tell you something that is more pleasing to our Tory *Gusto*. He did not long pass unpunish'd, for though he gain'd the Victory over the *German Tories* near *Leipsick*, he fell in that Battle, by the Intercession of the Saints, whose Shrines he had violated, say our High Church Authors, but *Puffendoff*, who was a Low Church Man tells us a Whigg Story, that in the Heat of the Battle he was Stabb'd or Shot in the Back by the Duke of *Saxe Lawenburgh*, who was brib'd by the *German Tories* and Papists to put this Assassination Plot in Execution. I would not have you too Credulous in this matter, for you know the Whiggs are apt to charge such things upon Men of our Principles, to cover their own foul Practices, for no Body knows better than you that the Faction was concerned with *Guiscard* in the Attempt to Assassinate *Mr. Harley*.

But tho' *Gustavus* met with this just Punishment for assisting the Emperors Rebellious Subjects, and hindring his Imperial Majesty to restore the Church Lands, which the Protestants had Sacrilegiously Usurp'd, yet your Whiggish Country Men still pursued the Design of their Whigg Prince, and wou'd not give over the War till they forced the Emperor and his *German* Tories to agree to such Terms at the Treaty of *Munster*, as they thought fit to propose, by which they obtain'd the Dutchies of *Bremen* and *Verden*, Upper *Pomerania*, and part of the Lower, the Isle of *Rügen*, and the City of *Wismar*, and 5 Millions of Crowns for themselves; besides they got the Rebellious Palatine Family Restored, for which you must needs be sensible that we Genuine Tories owe them no Thanks; For, had that Family been entirely destroyed, our *Sacbeverellites* wou'd never have had any reason to hate K. *William's* Memory, for leaving us the Cursed Legacy of the *Hanover* Succession; the Electress *Dowager* being a Daughter of that Family, by the Lady *Elizabeth*, Daughter to our *James I.*

We have other Causes besides to be angry with your Whiggish Countrymen, for they Establish'd a Toleration in the Empire, that prov'd a mischievous Preident for settling the like here, which all our Occasional Bills, Tacks and Mobbs have not yet been able to blow up. Besides, we are obliged to Curse *Gustavus's* Memory for breeding up General *Lesley* the *Scotch* Whigg, who being inu'd by your Usurper to Countenance the Rebellion of Subjects against their Sovereigns, came Home from your Army to his own Country, with others of the Kirk Whigg-Officers, and Commanded the *Scotch* Rebels against King *Charles I.* which defeated his design of reducing the Kirk to a Conformity with our Church. It must likewise be remembred to the perpetual Dishonour of your Country, that while they were under a Whigg-Ministry, they Liv'd like so many Atheists, hugging themselves in Peace, Honour, and Plenty

ty at Home, kept the Ballance of *Europe* Abroad, laid all the *German* Tories under Contribution from the *Baltick* to the Lake of *Constance*, had no less than 100 strong Garrisons in the Empire, and were like to have ruin'd the Tory Cause for ever. But thanks to our High-Flying Stars, it was not long before the Sky began to clear. The Principles of Unlimited Passive-Obedience and Indefeasible Hereditary Right took Rooting again in *Sweden*. So that your Queen *Christina*, who by her Whigg-Ministry and Generals, had Triumph'd over the Empire, and spoil'd the Design of the House of *Austria* for the Universal Monarchy, being prevail'd on at last to fall in with *Grotius's* Scheme of a Reconcilement with the Church of *Rome*, and having chang'd her Morals as well as her Religion, by the influence of *Italians*, &c. who had access to her Person, she fairly resign'd the Crown, which was convey'd to her by Usurpation, and retired to *Rome* by way of *France*, where she Gloriously ended her Days, in doing Penance for the Mischief that had been done to the Monarchy and the Church, by her Whigg Ministers and Generals.

The Ruin of Whiggism which she began, was gloriously compleated by an *October* Club and a High Church Parliament in 1680. when your King was made Absolute, acquitted from his Coronation-Oath, and Declared to be tyed by no Law, or any other Rule of Government but his own Will and Pleasure. How Happy your Country has been ever since, by the suppression of Whiggism and Property, can't be better Demonstrated than by the 12th Letter of the Account of *Livonia*, Printed for *Pet. Buck* at the Temple in Fleet Street, 1701. Of which be pleas'd to take the following Extract.

King *Charles XI.* of *Sweden* being Declar'd Absolute in 1680. the Effects of it were soon felt by his Subjects; for in 1681 he Establish'd a Commission to Resume in *Livonia* all those Estates of the Greater Nobility, as

Counts and Barons, which the Courtiers pretended did Anciently belong to the Publick. This quite impoverish'd those Noble Men, tho' they were Native *Swedes*, and had receiv'd their Estates from the Kings of *Sweden* for the Services they had done them. The other Nobility who were Natives of *Livonia* took no great notice of this, because those Estates had never been possess'd by them, while under the Government of the Great Masters of the Teutonic Order, or of the Kings of *Poland*. Besides, they were deluded with this specious Pretext: That it wou'd be a greater Advantage to their Country, and remove all occasions for Publick Taxes, since by this Seizure the King's Revenues wou'd be so much increas'd. By this means they were kept from concerning themselves in the Support of those *Swedish* Lords; tho' the depriving them of their Estates was expressly contrary to the Laws of *Livonia*.

But soon after the Commissioners did also Attack their own Estates and Possessions. The *Livonian* Gentry oppos'd it by Supplications, Protections and Remonstrances, but the Arbitrary Will of their Sovereign must be Obey'd, and great Numbers of good Families who had done Eminent Services to the Crown were utterly Ruined. Their Ancestors had Conquer'd those Countries by their Blood, enjoy'd their Estates for many Generations, and had them confirmed by the Grand Masters of the Teutonic Order, and by the Kings of *Poland* while they respectively enjoy'd the Sovereignty of *Livonia*. It is true indeed that sometimes the Kings of *Poland* were Influence'd by the High Church Clergy to resume some of the Ecclesiastick Estates, and apply them to the use of the Church: But *Charles IX* of *Sweden* Objected against it to the *Polish* Kings, as an Infraction on their *Pacta Conventa* with the States of *Livonia*, and a Breach of their Promises. This Generous Concern and Interposition induced the *Livonians* to joyn with him against the *Poles*, and facilitated the Conquest of *Livonia* by his Son *Adolphus*. That Prince and his Successor

cessors till 1681 kept the *Livonians* in Possession of their Priviledges, of which we have this Remarkable Instance: The *Swedish* Parliament at *Stockholm* in 1654 resolv'd, That the 4th part of all Grants from the Crown should be resum'd. Yet *Charles Gustavus* who was then King of *Sweden* did positively Order the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, not to meddle with the Estates or Grants in *Livonia*, since it cou'd not be done without a Breach of their Priviledges, by which they were exempted from the Acts of Parliament in *Sweden*, and were only Subject to those made by their own Diets.

'Tis true *Charles XI*th's Ancestors had, for considerable Services done to the Crown, conferr'd Donatives upon several of the *Livonians*; but the Commissioners not only recalled those Grants, but also took their Inheritances from them, contrary to the Agreement made with the Crown of *Sweden*; when the *Livonians* freely submitted to it, on Condition of being Maintained and Supported in their Liberties and Estates. Besides, many of those Lands had been actually purchased by the *Livonians*, or Mortgaged to them for ready Money, and others had been Assigned them for their Military Services, in lieu of their Pay and Arrears, or for raising Troops at the Command of the Crown. But the Commissioners resum'd all without regard to Title or Right, tho' the Gentry shew'd their Writings and Contracts confirmed by the Hands of those Kings, under the Great Seal of the Crown.

In 1685 the Gentlemen in the Province of *Esthonia* had their Estates resum'd in the same manner, tho' they thought themselves more secure than the rest, because they were the first who by a Voluntary Agreement had put themselves under the protection of the Crown of *Sweden*, on condition that their Estates and Liberties should be secured; but their Plea was rejected, as well as that of the other *Livonians*.

The *Swedes* told them they ought to submit to the
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Will of the King, without complaint as well as they; but the *Livonians* and *Estonians* answered, That they had not renounced their Liberties and Priviledges as the *Swedes* had done in Parliament, That the Acts of *Sweden* did not oblige them since they had their own particular Laws and Diets, to the preservation of which every King Swore when he came to the Crown, and that it was on these conditions they had submitted to them. They added, that *Charles XI* himself had taken that Oath, and the Nobles of *Livonia* when they paid him their Homage had obtain'd a new Confirmation under the Great Seal, of their Possessions by Letters Patents. They likewise insisted on an Ancient Agreement betwixt the Knights of the Teutonic Order and the Nobility, which had been confirm'd by the Kings of *Sweden*, that when any Fief came to be vacant, it shou'd not be Incorporated with the Domain of the Sovereign, but immediately Assign'd to some other of the Nobility.

The King himself seem'd to pity the *Livonians*, order'd that one Third of their Estates shou'd be allow'd the Proprietors, and that they shou'd be prefer'd before others in Farming the rest from the Crown. But the Arbitrary humour of the Commissioners and Governors was such, that the Gentry of *Livonia* had no benefit by it, for on pretence of Old Taxes due to the State, After-Reckonings and New Surveys, by which they doubl'd and trebled the Number of Acres, contrary to the Old Rules, All was swallowed up.

This occasion'd the States of *Livonia* to send a Petition or Address to the King with their Complaints as follows.

Most Potent, and most Gracious KING.

WE your Majesties most Faithful Nobility of this your most Humble Province, appear before your Majesty with Fear and Trembling, with this present Lamentable Supplication, assuring
our

our selves of a most Merciful Construction thereof
 from Your Majesty ; and that it will be looked upon
 as an Humble Devoted Loyalty and Love towards
 your Majesty, when Oppressed Subjects having suffered
 patiently as much as was possible, yet being overwhelmed
 with Miseries, and having no Strength to support it any
 longer, they must lay their Grievances in a most
 Submissive manner, and Humble Reliance before Your
 Majesty, as the only one from whom they can expect
 Relief and Help, in their distressed Condition. The
 Necessity and Misery of our Poor Native Country is
 such, that we are ashamed to relate to you our own
 Condition ; and have nothing to Alleviate our Misfortunes
 but Tears and Groans ; whilst we perceive that our
 Neighbours look upon us with Pity and Astonishment. Till
 now we have suffered all things with silence out of
 profound Respect to your Majesty. and have supported
 all Extremities with an awful Obedience, and in a manner
 overcome Human Impatience with constancy, to give
 proofs of our Loyalty towards your Majesty ; and have
 hitherto Comforted our selves with the Hopes that Your
 Majesty would out of Your own Royal Compassion and
 Goodness, find and measure out the time to Deliver and
 Restore us.

But having found by experience, that Nature sinks under
 the Weight, and that Humanity cannot bear it any longer ;
 since no prospect of Redress presents itself to us, we are
 forc'd to Apply our selves to our last Refuge, which is,
 the Representation of our Humble Complaints to Your
 Majesty. For the wretched State of this Country, and the
 Inhabitants thereof, has been kept from Your Majesties
 knowledge ; and to add to our Misfortunes, has been
 intirely misrepresented by those who for secret Reasons,
 and self-interested Regards, have made relations
 different from the Truth.

But we find our selves obliged, for many Reasons,

to discover and lay before Your Majesty the true Condition thereof, we being Necessitated by the greatest Extremity, which is exempted from all Obedience to Laws.

And besides this, our Oaths of Fidelity taken to Your Majesty with all Solemnity, *An.* 1687. did oblige us before God and Your Majesty, on the hazard of our Salvation not to Conceal any thing that we think might tend to Your Majesties and Your Royal Successors Detriment or Prejudice.

The Welfare and Prosperity of this Land, is Your Majesties true and real Interest, and therefore ought not to be separated; and this makes us hope that Your Majesty will not shut up the Bowels of Your Christian Compassion towards Your Majesties Miserable and utterly Ruined Subjects, but rather Mercifully hear us with Patience.

Our Afflictions (most Gracious King) arise from hence, that we are not only expelled out of our Properties, which we have purchased with our Money, Blood, faithful Services, and Lives, and are thereby thrown Headlong from the Highest Prosperity, into the Abyss of most bitter Poverty; but this Proceeding is aggravated and augmented by taking from us (after we fell under that fatal Reduction) our Goods and Moveables; and there is not so much left us out of the Seizures, as will enable us to sustain our Bodies and Lives, but we are forced to beg the Assistance and Benevolence of well dispos'd Christians: Nay, we are so extreemly ill used, that those who have possess'd Estates worth 20000 Crowns *per An.* have had all taken from them, and they cannot gain admittance to Farm that which was their own, tho' they endeavour in any quality to continue on the same Lands; and proffer all the Securities that a Stranger can give.

And since by a visible Punishment from Heaven, the present Scarcity hath levell'd all our Estates, as well
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those who were entirely reduc'd, as those that are not, whereby all the supports of Life are vanish'd; we cannot but with Tears and great Commotions of Soul, see how many of the Inhabitants are forc'd, one after another, to forsake their Native Country; where their Ancestors and themselves have Liv'd many Ages, in Honour and Plenty, and now must in other Lands seek for Security, and wherewithal to maintain themselves, their Wives and Children. If there be any of our Brethren, who in this their Calamity are desirous of shelter for themselves, and not to starve with their Families, without any thing but the Sky for their Coverlid, and to that end employ their Pains to Farm the same Estate that was taken from them; the Lands are so highly rated to them, and no allowance made them for those Years of scarceness wherewith it pleases the Most High to scourge the whole Country, that they cannot gain their Bread by it; which reduces them to Sell Year after Year what little they had left; and when they have nothing more to make Money of, then they are hardly used by distraining, and at last are forced to fly their Country, to avoid the perpetual fear of being apprehended, and put into Gaols and *Corps de Gardes*; with the rest of the Noble *Leffees*, who have not been able to pay their Rents, and whose inability has been occasion'd by the extraordinary Price of the Leases. So that in those Circumstances, a Steward who enjoys his Wages, is more out of danger, and in a much happier State, than those who Farm from the King, what formerly was their own; and have nothing to expect every hour, but their final Ruin.

Your Majesty was Graciously pleas'd, to promise in 1687, to some of them an allowance of a third part of their Estates; but no body has had the Benefit of it; for the Price of it has been rais'd so excessively, that they had rather Renounce that third, intended as a Royal Favour to them, and chuse to pay, what Rent can be demanded in Reason and Equity.

If your Majesty has been so Gracious to some, as to bestow on them the Marks of your special Grace in those reduced Estates, which they enjoyed for some Years, yet it reached no further, than to furnish them Bread to mix with their Tears: But then of a sudden they were attach'd by some Inspectors, and After-reckonings of, which they were forced to make good all the Arrears, that they were pleased, to exact from them, which is against the Laws of all Nations. This way of proceeding has occasion'd their utter Ruin but as if all these hard Usages were not sufficient to destroy them: There were other ways, found out, whereby those, who are yet in uncertainty, and not wholly dispossest'd of their Estates, are vex'd and tormented; they are overwhelm'd with Military Executions under several Pretences, whereof one is, that former Taxes have not been paid, even though they prove the contrary, and make it appear by sufficient Acquittances. Since we are in this manner depriv'd of all, no Gentleman is able to farm those seized Demains or Starosties, though they are intitled to it, by Ancient Priviledges, and by your Majesty's own Assurance under your Royal Hand and Seal, still extant. The exream Poverty, which is fallen upon 'em, not by their own fault, but by the above-mention'd Persecutions, occasions that any mean and Vulgar Person, who has a little Estate, is preferred to a Noble Man, and this able Farmer, because he cannot manage such great Districts by himself, lets it out to others with Advantage.

Besides all this, though the above mention'd Poor Plaintiffs are undone by Dearth and Scarcity, yet they are oblig'd, to pay their Rent, not only in Ready Money, but in such Species as they call the Bank, which is not the current Money of the Country, whereby they loose 5, 6, or 7 per Cent by the Change. 'Tis no lets sensible to us, to hear, that we are made a Scorn, and are had in Derision by some inconfide-

rate People in their Assemblies, where without any Reserve, they openly say, that within 10 Years there shall not be left a *German* in these Countries, and it seems those threats are pursued by the Methods that are taken in the University of *Dorpat*, from whence they impose People upon us of another Nation and Language, as well in the Pulpits as elsewhere, and wherever it lies in their Power, they allow no Sermons to be preach'd in the *German* Tongue, but send to preach to us, who don't understand our Country Language, nor we theirs, so that by so many growing Evils and Calamity's both in Temporal and Spiritual Concerns, our Country must become a Reproach.

We cannot forbear to represent to your Majesty with deep Concern, the great Oppressions that many groan under, by that heavy and insupportable Survey and Taxation of our Lands. And we cannot believe, that your Majesty would any longer suffer that Burden upon your Loyal Subjects, if your Majesty would be Graciously pleas'd to hear us with Patience. 1st, They compute uncertain Revenues, that never come in, for certain ones. Secondly, We are forced out of those casual Revenues to pay certain Taxes, at 25 per Cent, which Taxes if they be brought to the true Standard, cost us more than 33 per Cent, which from the Scarcity of late Years absolutely exceeds all our Income. Another grievance arises from this new Survey, which is the Provisions we furnish for Troops, whose Numbers have been Augmented.

There is no Tax that has been rais'd and impos'd upon us in the most difficult time; and during the Wars which your Majesty and your Kingdom have been engag'd in, that has been so Grievous; as this present Land-Tax, at a time, when we should enjoy the Sweets of Peace.

When we consider all these intolerable Burdens and Misfortunes, under whose weight, our very Souls

must bend, we are forced most Gracious King at the
 same time, to represent to our selves with the utmost
 Despair, the unavoidable Consequences of it: That such
 a Nobility who conquer'd this Land from the Hea-
 thens with their Blood, Converted its Inhabitants to
 the Christian Faith, and so often signalized them-
 selves in faithful Services to the Crown of Sweden,
 as well in your Majesty's Presence, as in the Eyes of
 the whole World, must be oblig'd at last, to fol-
 low the Example of those, who have already forsak-
 en and abandon'd their Native Soil with Sighs to
 the most high God; and this must be the unhappy
 Fate of all them that still remain.

We are not able to describe to your Majesty all
 our Miseries, for they are without Number, and of such
 a deplorable Nature, that *Lifland* is no more what
 it was formerly, and though it is blest with Plenty
 of Corn, and all necessaries in such Quantities, that
 many Foreign Kingdoms and Provinces have been
 furnished with Provisions from hence; yet the Inha-
 bitants thereof, are reduced to so wretched a Condi-
 tion, that in these late Years, whilst they have in vain
 implored Relief, many Poor People are dead of Fa-
 mine, others have laid violent Hands on their Fami-
 lies and themselves, out of Hunger and Despair;
 Thousands of Country Peasants, with their Families
 have already deserted us to live in Foreign Countries,
 having plundered many Places, where they thought
 to find any thing, and we can most humbly assure
 your Majesty, that if God Almighty had been pleas'd
 to leave it to our Choice, either to suffer a cruel
 War from our Neighbouring Tyrannical Enemy, or
 to endure these present deplorable Times; our woe-
 ful Experience wou'd leave us in doubt, whether the
 first had not been preferable to the last.

To Sum up all; if your Majesty out of your Clemency
 does not relieve us with your powerful Assistance, we
 as your Faithful and Loyal Subjects can promise your
 Majesty

‘ Majesty nothing else, but heavy Consequences, and
 ‘ a deserted Country, which damages may prove irre-
 ‘ parable, though many Millions shou’d be employ’d
 ‘ afterwards to retrieve it.

‘ And to the End, that your Majesty may be assured,
 ‘ this is the very truth, and does not proceed, from a-
 ‘ ny ill grounded Motives, but only from extreme and
 ‘ lawless Necessity; that has unavoidably forced us to
 ‘ this Universal Complaint: Your Majesty’s Faithful,
 ‘ Nobles hope with all Humility, that you will be pleas-
 ‘ ed in your Royal Wisdom, to appoint certain disinte-
 ‘ rested Persons, to inform your Majesty, what is the
 ‘ true State and Condition of this Country, and then
 ‘ your Majesty will find not only this most humble remon-
 ‘ strance to be true, and that the Nobility will warrant
 ‘ and engage their Lives and Fortunes to prove the
 ‘ truth of it, but moreover many Circumstances of our
 ‘ Oppressions, will be found, which the Oppressors
 ‘ we labour under, deter us from laying before you.

‘ We therefore Prostrate our selves most Humbly be-
 ‘ fore Your Majesties Throne of Clemency, with afflict-
 ‘ ed Hearts and Minds, and Humbly beg with Tears in
 ‘ our Eyes, for the Mercies of Christ, that Your Maje-
 ‘ sty will be pleas’d, to look upon our Necessities and
 ‘ Miseries, with Favour and Compassion, and deliver
 ‘ us with your Powerful Assistance from intire Ruin;
 ‘ and we will constantly spend our Blood and Fortunes
 ‘ for Your Majesties Service, and so Live and Die,

Most Gracious King,

Your Majesties (in the Name and behalf of the Nobility of the Dukedom of Liffland) Most Humble and Faithful Subjects and Servants,

*Ernst Fredrich Reichaw, Hindrich Cronenstern,
 Otto Friedrich von Fitinghoff, Leonhard Gustave
 von Butberg, Johan Hindrich, Streilt von Levenstein,*

May 30. An. 1692.

*In the Name of the Nobility, of the Dukedom of Li-
 vonia, at that time their Land Marshal or Speaker.*

This

This Humble Petition was called in Sweden a Capital Crime; and therefore the King was advised, to Summon before him at *Stockholm*, those Landraths, or Councillors of State, who had sign'd this Address: They appeared there accordingly in 1694. And their Supplications being declared Seditious, they Alleg'd in their defence, that having signed the said Address not as Principals, but according to Form and Custom, in an Assembly of the Body of the *Livonian* Nobility, and being only their Mandatarii, or Commissioners, they had under-written it, as the General Sentiments of all the Nobles of the Land; therefore their Proceedings being Interpreted as a High Crime; not they alone; but the Nobility must Answer it in Common: as they had consulted and joynd in it: But the Court Ordered them to Answer to their Accusation, which they still excepting against; Sentence was Pronounced upon them, and they were Condemned to have their Heads cut off, and their Estates confiscated, &c. Thereupon they were put in Prison, in order for Execution; but great Intercession being used, the King changed the Sentence, into an Imprisonment of Six Years, which they suffered Two Years and half, till the moment of the King's Death, April 5. 1697. At which very instant his Spiritual Director minded him of these Noble Prisoners, and Interceding for them, he sign'd their Release, and immediately Died.

By this you may see Sir, how near a Relation there is betwixt the *Livonian* and *Kentish* Petitioners, against whom you shew'd so just an Indignation. We must own to your Honour, that the part you Acted on that Occasion was very Natural, and we are mightily pleas'd to find such an Harmony in Practice and Principle, betwixt the *Swedish* and the *British* Tories; for we condemn all Remonstrances to Princes, against Arbitrary Proceedings wherein we our selves are Actors, as Sedition and Rebellion, which nothing but the Blood of the Seditious can Expiate. We are also pleas'd to find by the same Au-
thor,

thor, That K. Charles the XI. of Sweden was engag'd in an Alliance with France, which was the more Honourable, because it was so much to his loss, and gave the German Whiggs, particularly that incorrigible one, the late Elector of Brandenburg an Occasion to subdue a great part of his Dominions in Germany. This shews him to be a true Resolute Tory, like some of our own Princes, who, would rather hazard their Crown, than abandon a French Popish Alliance.

We justly admire the great Proficiency of your Country Men in the Politicks of France, and that even your Princes han't of late thought it below their Dignity to be Scholars to Lewis XIV. We can't doubt of this since M. Terlon who was his Ambassador to your Charles X. tells us in his Memoirs, that he design'd to make himself Master of Denmark and Courland, of Norway and the Baltick contrary to Solemn Treaties. And that after he had finish'd those Conquests in the North, he wou'd Invade Italy by Sea and Land, and like another Alaric bring Rome once more under the Power of the Goths; That it was his common Maxim; *A great Prince shou'd always make War to keep his Subjects in Awe, and be a Terror to his Neighbours, and never be a slave to his Oaths and Promises.* He put this in practice upon the D. of Courland, under the Faith of a Treaty by the Conduct of the Marshal Douglass a North-British Tory; and wou'd have kept his Conquest, had it not been for that Arrant Whigg the late Elector of Brandenburg, Godfather to our late K. William, whom he poyson'd with his Revolution Principles.

We are no less pleas'd Sir, to find such a Remarkable Agreement betwixt your Tories and ours, in the Methods by which you have Establish'd the great Blessings of Arbitrary Power, which ours are so fond of. For the same Author in his 14th Letter tells us, it was effected with all possible Tranquillity, by the Divisions which your Tories had rais'd in the Senate, and by the Pusillanimity of those who were in places of Power and Trust;

Trust; so that nothing was attempted to oppose the Fury of those who had put the King upon such Measures, which they did to satisfy their own private Ends and Passions to the Ruin of so many Thousands, and to the no small Prejudice of the Kingdom.

We are likewise perfectly Charmed, that your Country-Men have so exactly Learned our Passive Obedience, and without offering to Resist, patiently submit to the Arbitrary Power of their Princes; but don't love to hear that any of them shou'd look upon it as a Judgment from God; for we are afraid they will Labour to get rid of it as the *Romans* frequently attempted in the like Case; the Wisest of whom as *Tacitus* tells us, Ascrib'd their Slavish Patience to the Wrath of the Gods.

I shall Conclude with this Reasonable Proposal, that a General Bill of Naturalization may be mutually agreed on betwixt our Tories and yours; for the *Mine-head* Doctrin, and that of the *Ox*——a Decree, are so very Uniform, that we have no reason to fear any Schism betwixt you and us. I know the Whiggs object in opposition to what I have said about your Ancient Constitution, that your Crown was always Elective till 1680. and that K. *Charles XI.* himself had no other than a Parliamentary Title, deriv'd from *Gustavus Erickson*, and his Son K. *Charles*. But no matter for that, your Parliament declar'd that *Charles* deriv'd his Title only from God, with as much Truth as we Tory Addressers declare that our Princes do the like, and always enjoy'd their Crown by Hereditary Descent, without owing any thing to the People.

*I am Sir, with all possible Respect for
Your Person and Principles,*

Your most Obedient Servant,

*From Mine-Head,
May 12. 1711.*

Philo. Tory.